

Lesson 28: The plagues of Egypt (1)

Scriptural Basis:



Exodus 7:14-25; Exodus 8

Overview:

God brings a series of plagues to Egypt to demonstrate that He is the Lord. In the first plague, the Nile is turned to blood, yet Pharaoh is not moved because his magicians perform a trick that looks similar. Next come the frogs, this time, though Pharaoh's magicians perform a similar trick, Pharaoh realizes that only God could make the frogs go away. So Pharaoh begins a pattern that is repeated many times. That is, he makes a promise in order to bring relief from God, only to break the promise as soon as relief comes. In the next plague, God sends gnats, which the magicians can't replicate and they therefore acknowledge that the plague is a work of God. The next plague is swarms of flies, which only the Egyptians experience, because God protects the Israelites.

Things to consider:

Though Pharaoh seemed to know in his head that God is all powerful, he refused to let it change his heart and submit to God's ways. In addition to being stubborn, Pharaoh also lied repeatedly to Moses by promising to release the Israelites, only to recant after God relieved them of the plague. Even the magicians conceded that the plagues were the work of God, yet Pharaoh's heart remained hard. Pharaoh needed to recognize that God is Lord over all. Being Lord means one who has the right to lead, and all others must submit to his ways.

The gospel in the story:



Pharaoh had many opportunities to acknowledge God as Lord in this story. Yet he chose to be stubborn and rebellious. This shows us the nature of our own hearts. The Good News is that God is Lord, AND He is a gracious Lord. Even Pharaoh received grace by being given multiple chances to obey. Followers of Jesus have received the full measure of God's grace, being given forgiveness that we didn't earn through Jesus' death on the cross. Followers of Jesus therefore submit to God as Lord, AND love him as the loving Father that He is.

Bible Study for Preparation:



Read Exodus 7:14-25; Exodus 8. Meditate on the fact that human nature is that we are prepared to look to God as Lord in the struggles of our life, yet we want to be our own lord the rest of the time.

Teaching the lesson:

- A: Review
- B: Bible verse memory activity
- C. Story
- D. Additional activity